



## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 16 September 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S  
DAILY BRIEF  
16 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. Israel -  
Arab States

Nasir and Eban both made relatively mild public statements yesterday, apparently in hopes of cooling off the superheated atmosphere. We see no sign that tensions have abated much, however.

2. South Vietnam

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Thieu hopes to get "Big" Minh on his side when Minh returns from exile, but he has told Ambassador Bunker he is worried that opposition factions might try to exploit the naive general.

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### 3. Soviet Union - Czechoslovakia

Soviet troops have now been almost entirely pulled out of Prague, but [ ] they are encamped just outside the city. Amid recurrent rumors that Dubcek's days in office are numbered, the Czech leadership continues its exhortations to the populace to toe the line.

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### 4. Yugoslavia

Tito recently expressed the following views on Yugoslavia's current situation, according to a knowledgeable source of the US Embassy:

--Belgrade will have to re-examine all its foreign and domestic policies in the wake of the invasion of Czechoslovakia, which ushered in a "new era in international relations and relations among Communist parties."

--The Yugoslavs must assume that Moscow is hostile to them, and the country will have to stay "in an almost permanent state of military readiness."

--Recent military and civil measures have been a heavy expense, and more such measures are on the way. Social and economic reforms will have to be delayed. There is a good chance that the Soviets will make much use of economic pressure in applying the screws to Yugoslavia.

--Belgrade will not be asking the US for arms "for the time being."

--Tito is furious with Nasir for parroting the Soviet line on Czechoslovakia. He doubts that relations with Egypt will ever be the same.

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## 5. Soviet Union

Yesterday the Soviets, after a frustrating year of false starts and malfunctions, finally launched a spacecraft toward the moon with their largest space booster. If all goes well, the craft will orbit the moon and return in about a week.

## 6. Sweden

The Czech crisis produced an upset victory at the polls yesterday for the Social Democrats, who picked up most of the votes lost by the Swedish Communists. They had earlier been in trouble with the electorate on domestic issues, and we believe that in the postelection period they will concentrate on these problems and give less prominence to their anti-US policy on Vietnam.

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY*

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S  
Political Attitudes



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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam  
for the President's Eyes Only

16 September 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Nhan Dan on US Responsibility: Hanoi's party daily Nhan Dan, in a 15 September article by Commentator, stated that if the US persists in its policy of "aggression and obduracy," it will have to bear the full responsibility for stalemate at the Paris talks and prolongation of the war. The article, broadcast over Hanoi's international service in English, declared "the so-called reciprocity" for a bombing halt "is none other than a scheme by the United States to force the Vietnamese people to give up their just struggle against US aggression and for independence and freedom." It castigated the "belli-cosity of the Johnson administration" and called for an end to US "aggression" and for US recognition of and talks with the Liberation Front on matters related to South Vietnam.

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Review of Recent Activities South of the 20th Parallel: North Vietnamese military and logistics activities in the panhandle were hampered by heavy rains and flooding during the week of 2-8 September.

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Propaganda on Tay Ninh: Hanoi's international service in English yesterday painted a glowing picture of the Communists' military "successes" in Tay Ninh Province. Quoting a Nhan Dan editorial, it claimed that between 10 and 13 September, five battalions and four companies "totaling thousands of enemy" were wiped out or decimated. The defensive line of the "enemy" in Tay Ninh had been penetrated and his clear-and-hold strategy had failed, the editorial stressed.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL  
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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